

the river. He immediately jumped into the hole to help the tourists and saved them in a matter of minutes. Several of Spc. Loehner's colleagues successfully directed onlookers away from the chaotic scene.

Mr. Speaker, Spc. Kenneth Loehner and the other Guardsmen involved have distinguished themselves by going above and beyond the call of duty to ensure the safety of others. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in congratulating them on a job well done.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KEITH WIER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, today I stand before you to recognize the personal achievements of Mr. Keith Wier, of Denver, Colorado. Keith's contributions to environmental technology have been implemented throughout Colorado, our nation, and the world. Moreover, his tireless efforts to preserve our ecosystem have led to the creation of new methodologies for the disposing of toxins.

Keith has used his MBA in Real Estate and Finance in all but the obvious manner. He has devoted his career to the development and manufacture of international products used in nuclear instrumentation. Keith's formation of the Resonant Shock Compaction in 1997 dramatically improved existing methods for contaminated granular waste disposal. He has also capitalized on grants received from the U.S. Department of Energy and the City of Denver Mayor's Office of Economic Development and International Trade to work jointly with the Japanese in the modernization of environmental export programs. In addition, Keith founded an international conglomerate of utility companies that studied the formation of construction products from coal burning byproducts. The published results helped commence the development of industries in India and Japan based on his research and findings.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride I rise today to pay tribute for the works of Keith Wier. The results of his research have transformed former waste into necessary products, which has helped local agencies and the environment in numerous ways. Congratulations Keith and good luck in your future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I regret that a pressing family matter yesterday forced me to miss recorded vote numbers 296, 297, and 298.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 3482, the Cyber Security Enhancement Act, and H.R. 4755, the Clarence Miller Post Office Building Designation Act. I would have voted "nay" on H.R. 3479, the National Aviation Capacity Expansion Act.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF CHARLOTTE

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Assistance League of Charlotte on its tenth anniversary.

The Assistance League of Charlotte is a volunteer organization that has dedicated ten years of hard work to bettering the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community and is deserving of public recognition and commendation.

This nonprofit organization was founded in 1992 as the 93rd chapter of the National Assistance League. Its volunteer members are dedicated to identifying, developing, implementing and funding philanthropic projects to serve the needs of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community. In 2001–2002, 113 members devoted almost 26,000 hours of community service to local children.

Its motto is Changing Lives for a Better Community, and the League has certainly lived by this credo, working tirelessly to enrich and uplift the people of Charlotte. Through philanthropic projects such as Operation Check Hunger, Operation School Bell, the Mecklenburg County Teen Court, and a scholarship fund for Charlotte-area seniors, the Assistance League of Charlotte has continually demonstrated its outstanding ability to enact real and beneficial changes in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community.

I am honored to recognize Assistance League of Charlotte on its tenth anniversary and to extend my heartfelt thanks to its members for their vision and integrity in serving the people of Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

HONORING JAMES E. BURTON

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. James Burton as he ends his tenure as the Chief Executive Officer of the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS). As his friends, family and colleagues all gather to celebrate his departure from over 25 years of public service, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the dedicated service of this truly distinguished citizen of Sacramento.

Jim Burton came to the California Public Employees' Retirement System in 1992 and was appointed CEO in 1994. During his eight years of guiding the fund, total assets increased 30 percent and now total over \$150 billion. His leadership has provided the 1.3 million California public employees, retirees and their families with a secure future.

Jim's time at CalPERS will not only be remembered by the funds' outstanding growth, but also by his commitment to the participating employees. Providing enrollees with exceptional customer service was high on his list of concerns. This can be seen in the organization's first strategic plan, which he helped shape.

In addition to leading CalPERS through a time of remarkable growth, Jim has served on numerous boards and committees of many prestigious organizations. These include the National Association of State Retirement Administrators, the Council of Institutional Investors, and the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. He also is a former Blue Ribbon Commission member of the National Association of Corporate Directors.

In recognition of his excellent work in serving the public employees of California, Jim was recently named Outstanding Public Administrator by the Sacramento Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration.

His service to the citizens of California, which has spanned the course of four decades, will surely be missed. Yet, his commitment to the employees of California and their families will undoubtedly serve as a model for others to follow.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most distinguished citizens, James Burton. His successes have been great, and it is a wonderful opportunity for me to recognize his many contributions to the people of California. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing my friend, Jim Burton, continued success in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DOUGLAS COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS, SUE NEUSTIFTER, UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant upon the occasion of her retirement. Sue Neustifter, the elected Register of Deeds of Douglas County, Kansas, which is located in the Third Congressional District, retired at the end of last month after holding that office since her first election in 1972, and after having worked for Douglas County for 43 years.

Sue Neustifter was elected to the Douglas County Courthouse in 1972, as one of the group of Democratic candidates whose election in Douglas County in that year marked the real beginning of two-party politics in the home of Lawrence and the University of Kansas. She joined the Register of Deeds office on June 1, 1959, just a few days after graduating from Eudora High School. With the exception of one six month period when she left the office to campaign for the position of Register, Sue served in the office continuously until July 1st of this year. Elected thirty years ago, she was re-elected her last seven times on the ballot without any formal opposition.

As an active member of the Kansas Register of Deeds Association, Sue has served as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of that group; she also has been a part of many Lawrence community organizations, such as Soroptimist International of Lawrence, Lawrence Business Women, the local legal secretaries' group, and the Lions' Club, where she was awarded "Lion of the Year" in 2001. She also received a 40-year award from the Kansas Association of Counties.